

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FEAE-00 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 OES-06 STR-04 TRSE-00
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UNCLAS CARACAS 1015

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TAGS: PFOR,FR, VE
SUBJ: MITTERRAND VISIT TO VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 0936 (NOTAL), PARIS 1584, SAN JOSE 402, MEXICO 1017

1. FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERRAND VISITED CARACAS JANUARY 27-29 AS GUEST OF PRESIDENT PEREZ, AND ACCION DEMOCRATICA(AD) PARTY. MITTERRAND WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY, AMONG OTHERS, MARSEILLE MAYOR GASTON DEFFERRE, AND POLITICAL THEORETICIAN AND IDEOLOGUE REGIS DEBRAY. MITTERRAND MET WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND TOP LEADERSHIP OF GOVERNING AD PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS SENIOR CABINET MINISTERS.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 28 MITTERRAND SPOKE TO FOLLOWING THEMES OF GENERAL INTEREST:

--FRENCH ELECTIONS. IF HELD TODAY, THE LEFT WOULD WIN THE ELECTIONS HANDILY. HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO COMMENT FURTHER ON HIS PARTY'S FUTURE CHANCES.

--COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST AFFINITIES. DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL METHODS SEPARATE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO ATTACK COMMUNISM ARE ALWAYS CONSERVATIVES. THE TRUE ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM ARE POWERFUL ECONOMIC INTERESTS. FRENCH SOCIALISTS, WHILE INSPIRED BY MARX AS A THEORETICIAN, ARE BASICALLY PRAGMATISTS, NOT DOGMATIC MARXISTS. SOCIALISTS DO NOT SEEK GENERAL EXPROPRIATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, BUT RATHER TO CONTROL INTERFERENCE OF CONCENTRATED ECONOMIC POWER IN STATE AFFAIRS.

--PETROLEUM-WORLD INFLATION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT SHEIK YAMANI STATEMENT THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD INCREASE OIL PRICES BY ONLY FIVE PERCENT TO HELP "SAVE FRANCE," MITTERRAND SAID THAT HE FAVORED YAMANI'S VIEW ON PRICES AND HOPED THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO PREVAIL. BUT HE ALSO ADDED THAT SUCH DECLARATIONS WOULD NOT CHANGE FRENCH ELECTORS' VOTES AND THAT YAMANI SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE ARABS AND TO SAUDI ARABIA. HE ALSO AGREED WITH REPORTER'S COMMENT THAT WORLD INFLATION IS NOT DUE TO INCREASE IN OIL PRICES.

--NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE/NIEO. SOCIALISTS SUPPORT FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF CIEC AND THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE NIEO. IN LATTER REGARD, HE TOOK A SWIPE AT ROLE OF DOLLAR IN INTER-NATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM BY EMPHASIZING THAT FRENCH SOCIALISTS SUPPORT A NEW STABLE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM NOT BASED ON THE DOLLAR.

--FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND ACCION DEMOCRATICA. TWO PARTIES ARE NOT IDENTICAL, BUT DO SHARE NUMEROUS COMMON VIEWS AND TRAITS.

3. COMMENT: PRESS INTEREST HERE IN MITTERRAND'S VISIT CENTERED ON PRESENCE OF REGIS DEBRAY. AS ADVOCATE OF ARMED REBELLION IN LATIN AMERICA, DEBRAY PRESENCE RAISED SOME EYEBROWS. PRESS SPECULATED ON WHY MITTERRAND BROUGHT HIM ALONG, PARTICULARLY SINCE AN AD LEADER WAS QUOTED IN PRESS TO EFFECT THAT DEBRAY CAME AS SOMETHING OF A "STOW-AWAY." MITTERRAND SAID THAT DEBRAY WAS NEITHER AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF DELEGATION NOR, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, MEMBER OF FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY BUT MITTERRAND SAID THE SOCIALISTS ADMIRED HIM AND WERE GLAD HE CAME ALONG. FOR HIS PART, DEBRAY KEPT A LOW-PROFILE, ANSWERED NO POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND REPORTEDLY SPENT MUCH OF HIS TIME WITH LOCAL PUBLISHERS NE-

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GOTIATING THE RELEASE OF A NEW BOOK.
VAKY

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